

Joseph Kony is a mass murderer, whose campaign of violence against innocent civilians spans decades. The predatory forces doing his bidding are known as the Lord's Resistance Army, or LRA, and they have perpetrated some of the worst human rights abuses of our time.

Under the direction of Kony, the LRA has murdered, raped, mutilated, and abducted tens of thousands of innocent people, many of whom are children. They target remote villages, butchering civilians, abducting women and children to serve as sex slaves and fighters. Kony's bloody reach now extends to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Central African Republic, and the newly formed Republic of South Sudan.

One measure that we could accomplish would be for the U.N. peacekeeping missions in the region to more effectively coordinate their actions and share information related to Kony and the LRA, because this is a threat that crosses many international borders.

I'd like to thank my colleague, Congressman ED ROYCE, for introducing a new bill, H.R. 4077, which I proudly support. H.R. 4077 would authorize the Secretary of State to use the State Department's Rewards Program to gain intelligence and strengthen the capacity of those who are actively engaged in fighting transnational organized crime and also apply it to the search for Kony and the LRA.

This program has served as a valuable incentive for those with crucial information to come forward and help round up foreign nationals wanted for a range of brutal crimes and activities that threaten regional and global security and stability and U.S. national security interests. It will be an important tool in helping bring Kony and his circle of thugs, the Lord's Resistance Army, to justice.

I'd also like to thank Congressman JIM MCGOVERN for introducing House Resolution 583, of which I am also a proud cosponsor. Mr. MCGOVERN's resolution echoes current law and puts the House on record in strong support of U.S. efforts to counter the Lord's Resistance Army. It urges the President to work closely with Congress to address critical gaps in U.S. strategy and to enhance U.S. support for the regional measures already there to fight the Lord's Resistance Army.

As we have seen over the past 25 years, Kony's assault on innocent lives has no limits. Now is the time to help bring Joseph Kony and his fellow criminals to justice. As a Nation, let us assure that we have done all that we can to end this ongoing tragedy and hold this evil man accountable for all of his crimes.

I thank all of the young people throughout my district who have communicated through Twitter and Facebook and different modes of social media to express their outrage over Kony's evil deeds; but now, let's take action. Let's pass these bills.

□ 1010

BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIERREZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Last Thursday, a different kind of March madness took place in the NCAA basketball tournament. In a game between Kansas State and Mississippi State, Angel Rodriguez, a Puerto Rican point guard for Kansas State, was met with taunts from Mississippi State students while he was getting ready to shoot a free throw. The taunt: "Where's your green card?"

That wasn't the only March madness. Earlier this month in San Antonio, Texas, a white high school in San Antonio chanted during the regional basketball championship trophy presentation. Their chant: "USA, USA, USA." Why did they chant USA? Because their team had defeated San Antonio's Thomas Edison High School, a team of mostly Latino players.

One U.S. citizen asked to produce his green card, one entire team of Americans taunted as if they were foreigners.

These young people, subjected to hatred and bigotry, handled it well.

Angel Rodriguez ignored the taunts and played a great game. If he hadn't been busy helping Kansas State win the game, he might have mentioned to everybody that he was from Miami or that all Puerto Ricans are citizens of the United States.

I'm impressed that the kids from Thomas Edison High School kept their cool. They deserve our praise not only for being good basketball players, but just for being great kids.

Mississippi State and Alamo Heights have apologized for the taunts. That's an important step in the right direction. That's not the issue. The issue is why people think it's okay to treat Latinos as if they are second-rate Americans, why so many people think being Latino means being a suspect in our own country, why they look at a young man named Rodriguez and think he doesn't belong in this country. It's because misguided kids taunting Latinos is not really the disease. It's the symptom.

The heart of the sickness is more troubling. The truth is, when it comes to Latinos and immigrants, far too many so-called leaders in our Nation are starting the taunts.

On the campaign trail and on talk radio and on TV, and even here in this Chamber, there are leaders that act like the biggest bullies in the schoolyard. If elected officials have no boundaries when it comes to scapegoating and demonizing immigrants and Latinos, then why should young people at a basketball game know any better? Why does an American, a Puerto Rican citizen basketball player, get taunted about a green card?

It's easier to understand when you hear the frontrunner for the Republican nomination of President pro-

moting a national immigration policy that makes all Latinos look like suspects and all immigrants look like criminals.

Mitt Romney has said that Arizona's anti-immigrant law—a law that essentially demands racial profiling of anyone who looks like they might be undocumented—is a model for our Nation. But that's not all Mitt Romney has said to American Latinos. He has said all 11 million immigrants, most of them Latinos, should self-deport, even if they've lived here since they were children and have American citizen families.

Mitt Romney has even gone as far to attack the first Latino Supreme Court justice. He believes that Justice Sotomayor is unqualified to serve on the Supreme Court. He's proud of the support of anti-immigrant extremists, including the author of Arizona's anti-immigrant law. He has attacked the DREAM Act, a perfectly reasonable bill. And Mitt Romney is hardly a lone voice. It is sad.

One Member of this House said he would be for any measure to stop illegal immigrants "short of shooting them." Even hanging them? Gassing them? One other colleague of ours here called undocumented immigration a slow-rolling, slow-motion terrorist attack on the United States.

Pat Buchanan wrote a book entitled "State of Emergency: The Third World Invasion and Conquest of America." Folks like Buchanan and Limbaugh regularly use words like "hordes" and "swarms" to describe immigrants.

Maybe Mitt Romney thinks he's just saying what he needs to say to get the Republican nomination, and maybe some elected officials think their extreme rhetoric doesn't really carry outside the Halls of Congress. But America knows better. So does a group of Kansas State basketball players and a group of good kids from San Antonio, Texas. They know that words matter very much.

Here's my advice to the Romneys and the Buchanans of the world and a few of my colleagues here in the House: Instead of bullies, why don't you be leaders? And why don't you try some words that bring people together instead of insults that tear our Nation apart.

A THREAT TO OUR HEALTH CARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, this Friday, March 23, marks the second anniversary of President Obama's health care law after 2 years. It's clear the law has already left more victims in its path than people it was meant to help. And unfortunately, along with the 20 million employees who will probably lose employer-sponsored health care, it may be our seniors who take the hardest hit.

Millions of seniors and disabled Americans rely on Medicare, yet the